Specification of UV, Visible, and Infrared Emission Spectra of Sprites and Blue Jets

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18 Jan 2002

Final Report

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REPORT DOCUMENTATION PAGE

Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188

Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments reparating this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for lateral to the collection of information in the collection of information. Send comments are suggested to the collection of information in the collection of information. Send comments are suggested to the collection of information of the collection of information.

| reviewing the collection of information. Send comments reg Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Hig | arding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collect hway, Suite 1204, Arlington, VA 22202-4302, and to the Off | ion of innormation, including suggestions for ri ice of Management and Budget, Paperwork Rec | educing this burden, to washington neadquarters services, pirectorate for fluction Project (0704-0188), Washington, DC 20503. |
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| 1. AGENCY USE ONLY (Leave blank) | USE ONLY (Leave blank) 2. REPORT DATE 3. REPORT TYPE AND DATES C | | TES COVERED |
| | 18 January 2002 | FII | NAL (May 96-May 98) |
| 4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Specification of UC, Visible, and Infrared Emission Spectra of Sprites and Blue Jets | | | PE: 61102F PR: 2310 TA: GD |
| 6. AUTHOR(S) | | | WU: AQ |
| Timothy F. Bell | | | |
| | | | Contract: F19628-96-C-0075 |
| 7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) | AND ADDRESS(ES) | | 8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION |
| STAR Laboratory | | | REPORT NUMBER |
| Stanford University | | | |
| Stanford, CA 94305-9515 | | | |
| 9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY N | AME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) | | 10. SPONSORING/MONITORING |
| Air Force Research Laboratory | | | AGENCY REPORT NUMBER |
| 29 Randolph Road | | | AEDI VO TD 2002 1549 |
| Hanscom AFB MA 01731-3010 | | | AFRL-VS-TR-2002-1548 |
| Contract Manager: Dean Kimb 11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES | all/VSSS | | |
| 12a. DISTRIBUTION AVAILABILITY STATE | | | 12b. DISTRIBUTION CODE |
| Approved for Public Release; Distribution Unlimited | | | · |
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| 14. SUBJECT TERMS | | | 15. NUMBER OF PAGES |
| Sprite quasi-electrostatic | | | |
| Blue Jet | | | 16. PRICE CODE |
| VLF/ELF | | | |
| 17. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT | 18. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF THIS PAGE | 19. SECURITY CLASSIFICATIO OF ABSTRACT | N 20. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT |
| UNCLASSIFIED | UNCLASSIFIED | UNCLASSIFIE | ED SAR |

SUMMARY

During the period of performance Stanford University constructed a VLF/ELF receiver to measure the VLF/ELF electromagnetic and quasi-electrostatic fields produced by lighting during Sprite and Blue Jet events. and deployed this instrument in the field to make such measurements. The data acquired in the field was used to characterize the electromagnetic and quasi-electrostatic fields produced by lightning during Sprite and Blue jet events.

FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT

1. Contract Purpose

The Contract goal is to measure and interpret ELF/VLF waveforms of causative lightning discharges in order to determine the electromagnetic pulse and quasi-static electric fields which constitute critical inputs to theoretical models of the UV, visible, and infrared emission spectra of Sprites and Blue jets.

2. Period of Performance

The period of performance under this contract extended from May 22, 1996, through May 21, 1998.

3. Work Provided

During the period of performance Stanford University constructed a VLF/ELF receiver to measure the electromagnetic and quasi-electrostatic fields produced by lighting during Sprite and Blue Jet events, and deployed this instrument in the field to make such measurements. The VLF/ELF receiver was constructed, tested and validated during the first year. Field data were acquired during the second year. Analysis and interpretation of the field data was also carried out in the second year.

6. Results

Results of the data analysis was reported in a paper delivered at the December American Geophysical Union in 1998 [Reising et al., 1998] and in a paper published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters [Reising et al., 1999]. The complete citations for these papers is given in the Reference section.

7. References

1) Reising, S. C., U. S. Inan, T. F. Bell, Y. Takahashi, and M. Sera, Further evidence of electrical current in Sprites using measurements of ELF radio atmospherics with simultaneous high time-resolution multi-anode array photometer observations. *EOS*, 79, F176, 1998.

2) Reising, S. C., U. S. Inan, and T. F. Bell, ELF spheric energy as a proxy indicator for sprite occurrence, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 26, 987, 1999.

7. List of personnel contributing to report

The list of Stanford University scientists and engineers who contributed to the work reported in this document is as follows:

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Steve Reising

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